

been to improve the quality of life for all construction workers, promote the value of highly skilled union crafts women and men, and to increase the union market share in the construction industry.

The San Mateo County Building & Construction Trades Council has also understood the importance of not only developing a strong foundation of skilled crafts persons through apprenticeship programs, but also the need to reach out to developers, public agencies, and elected officials to explain why it makes good business sense to use union contractors and union workers. The San Mateo County Building & Construction Trades Council's active approach in voicing the need for construction workers to be paid decent wages with pension and health benefits so they and their families can afford to live in the community illustrates its commitment to every single worker.

Madam Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the San Mateo County Building & Construction Trades Council as it celebrates a century of building and serving San Mateo County. We salute Bill Nack, the council's business manager and every single member of the council. The work of generations has shaped and built San Mateo County as we know it today, and contributed to the building of our country as well.

May the next century be marked by the excellence and achievements of the first 100 years of the Building and Construction Trades Council of San Mateo County.

HONORING THE MOREHOUSE COLLEGE GLEE CLUB

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Morehouse College Glee Club, as they visit Saints Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Fresno, California.

Established in 1945 by the late Rev. A.W. White, and currently led by Pastor Shane B. Scott, the Saints Rest Missionary Baptist Church is an esteemed member of the local religious community. Their hosting the Morehouse College Glee Club is certainly an exciting occasion worthy of special recognition.

The Morehouse College Glee Club boasts a 90-year tradition of excellence in musical achievements. Then current director, Dr. David Murrow has been a member of the music faculty at Morehouse College since 1981. In 1994, the glee club performed the National Anthem with Natalie Cole for Super Bowl XXVIII in Atlanta, Georgia. They also participated with Stevie Wonder, Gloria Estefan and Trisha Yearwood in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games held in Atlanta. Furthermore, the glee club has toured cities in Russia as well as Poland. Along with international tours and local concerts, the glee club presents an annual spring tour which averages 10 to 15 cities in 2 to 3 weeks.

The history of this institution demonstrates that it is only by embracing the importance of cooperation and vision that great success can be achieved. I am honored to congratulate Morehouse College Glee Club as they visit Fresno, California.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on May 6, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall No. 253 and No. 255.

Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 253—"yes"—Honoring the memory of Dith Pran by remembering his life's work and continuing to acknowledge and remember the victims of genocides that have taken place around the globe; rollcall No. 255—"no"—On Motion to Adjourn.

TRIBUTE TO MARINE SGT. GLEN MARTINEZ

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Marine Sgt. Glen Martinez, a great American who gave his life in service to our Nation. Born in Alamosa, Colorado, and raised in Monte Vista, Colorado, Sergeant Martinez was a born leader who inspired everyone he met throughout his life. His family describes him as a strong and highly driven individual. His desire to work hard, ability to see the best in others and motivate them allowed him to excel at school, sports and as a marine.

Sergeant Martinez was very involved in his school and community. After his passing, many people have contacted the family thanking them and sharing memories. His family remembers him always trying to get everyone involved, especially his most quiet and reserved peers. He also dedicated himself to his studies. His father, Ron Martinez, remembers his son studying early in the morning while listening to Bach and Beethoven.

Sports and school activities were also a major part of his life. In high school he took part in the State Marching Band, earning the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award. During his junior year he helped lead his football team to the semi-finals. Over the 4 years that he competed on the wrestling team, he held a record of 111 wins and 29 losses. He realized these accomplishments while earning an academic honorable mention. When preparing for college, Sergeant Martinez was offered scholarships for football, wrestling and baseball.

Sergeant Martinez accepted a scholarship to play baseball while earning a degree in surveying from Westwood College and later a master's degree in hydro engineering at the University of Colorado. His advanced degrees would have exempted him from having to go through basic training. Out of respect for his fellow marines, Sergeant Martinez chose to attend basic training even though he was not required to. He refused to ask people to do what he had not done himself.

When asked why he would give up his lifestyle to join the Marines he responded, "I am tired of people cutting down my country." Of 700 recruits, Sergeant Martinez was one of seven honored upon graduation. "His drill ser-

geant singled him out as one of the best he'd ever had," said his father.

On Friday, May 2, 2008 at 11:10 p.m., while on his second tour in Iraq, Sergeant Martinez gave his life in service to our Nation. He was 31 years old when a roadside bomb took his life along with that of three fellow marines.

I send my deepest condolences to the family of Sergeant Martinez. My thoughts go out to them in this difficult time. I hope they may find comfort in the knowledge that Sergeant Martinez gave his life to defend an ideal he believed in. Sergeant Martinez joins 57 other heroes from Colorado who have given their lives while serving their country.

DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL STRATEGY IN CHAD AND DARFUR

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1011, which calls on the United States and the international community to develop, fund, and implement a regional strategy which addresses the security and humanitarian crisis in Chad, the Darfur region of the Sudan, and the northern region of the Central African Republic.

This timely and important legislation, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor, not only calls on the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic to fulfill their obligations under international law to protect civilians, but also calls upon the President of the United States to continue humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in the region.

Chad has been plagued by intermittent conflict, both internally and with its neighbors, since it gained independence in 1960. The current President of Chad, Idriss Déby, took power after launching a coup across the border in neighboring Darfur, Sudan. He has since faced at least five coup attempts including one just this past February. Violence spurred by the Sudanese Government has also continued to destabilize Chad and the State Department's most recent Country Report on Human Rights Practices that, "the [Chadian] government's poor human rights record deteriorated further" this past year.

The refugee situation in Chad and the surrounding region continues to worsen. In the past three years, as fighting between the Government and rebels increased and 180,000 Chadians have been displaced, adding to the inflow of 290,000 refugees from the Central African Republic, CAR, and Sudan's Darfur region. The United Nations estimates that Chad is now home to 240,000 refugees from Darfur, 52,000 refugees from the Central African Republic, and more than 180,000 internally displaced people. In February 2008 alone over 12,000 new refugees from Darfur entered the country. We must develop a comprehensive plan to address the refugee crisis as well as the security problems that plague the region.

I visited Darfur and have seen the situation on the ground. Now high-tech GPS satellites and mass media allow everyone to bear witness to the tragedies in Chad, Sudan, and the

surrounding areas: the burnt holes where villages used to be, the mass migrations of the internally displaced, starving children, and victims of rape.

With this knowledge comes a duty to act. As the wars in Chad, Sudan, and Central African Republic become increasingly intertwined, and as the massive displacements continue across the region, the United States and the international community must engage the crisis on a regional level.

This resolution recognizes that reality and calls for a comprehensive strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance throughout the region with all nations.

I thank the sponsor of this resolution, Mr. WOLF, for introducing this important resolution, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

TRIBUTE TO D-DAY VETERANS

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a special group of veterans, those that served in Operation Overlord or D-day as it is commonly referred to.

On June 6, 1944, an allied force of over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish troops landed on a 50-mile stretch of French coastline heavily-fortified by German forces. President Franklin D. Roosevelt referred to the assault as a "mighty endeavor" as it included more than 13,000 aircraft, 137,000 jeeps, trucks, and half-tracks, 16 million tons of supplies, and the largest armada ever assembled in history with over 5,000 vessels.

Over 70,000 American servicemen participated in the D-day invasion and began what General Eisenhower referred to as the allied march to victory. The allied forces suffered about 9,760 casualties, of which 6,605 were Americans.

World War II shaped the 20th century and forever changed the course of world history. Recognizing the brave men and women of America's Armed Forces that participated in the war is a special privilege. As members of the greatest generation fade into the past, we should work diligently to thank them for their sacrifice as they marched on behalf of freedom and secured the world from tyranny.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill said it best in 1940 while addressing the British people during the Battle of Britain when he remarked, "Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few." America owes a great debt to its men and women in uniform and by recognizing the contributions of previous generations, we ensure that their sacrifices are never forgotten.

It is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I recognize the D-day veterans residing in California's Second Congressional District and all of America's veterans for protecting the values and traditions of our great Nation.

May God Bless America, our veterans, and those currently serving in the Armed Forces.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, on May 14, 1948, the dream of the restoration of a sovereign and independent State of Israel was realized. On that day, a mere 11 minutes following the declaration by Israel's Government, the United States officially recognized the Israeli state—extending a hand of friendship and support which has not once been withdrawn. Today, 60 years following that historic occasion, I rise to commemorate Israel's independence and congratulate the Israeli people on their dedicated efforts toward establishing a flourishing and thriving state.

Israel is currently the only fully established democracy in the Middle East, having free elections, a free press, freedom of religion, and the separation of powers. In addition, Israel is home to several of the leading universities in the world—spurring on its advanced economy with an emphasis in the technology sector. Israel's political, cultural, and economic success has not been easy, however, being attained in the face of war, ongoing terrorist attacks, and unfair boycotts against Israeli businesses.

I first visited Israel with five other members of Congress in 2003 and was struck by the degree to which ordinary Israelis were under the constant threat of terrorist attacks. Homes had bulletproof windows, security guards and metal detectors were necessities in most public places, and the threat of suicide bombings was a daily reality.

I am confident that terrorist attacks and other roadblocks to Israel's security and prosperity will not serve to undermine the resolve of Israel's people. Instead, these attacks will only increase the vigor with which the Israeli people defend their commonly held values of justice, freedom, and democracy.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel, and sincerely hope that Israel will in the coming years finally attain the lasting peace its people have long desired.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2419, FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, on May 6, 2008, my vote on the Kind Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2419, the Food and Energy Security Act of 2007, rollcall vote 258, was recorded as a "no" vote when I intended to cast a "yes" vote. I wish to clarify on the record my support for the House-passed funding levels for the Grassland Reserve Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and Wetlands Reserve Program, as well as the Senate's sod saver provision.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1086, recognizing this week as National Nurses Week. I thank Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for her leadership in sponsoring this Resolution so that Congress can honor the nearly 2.9 million hard working nurses across the country.

As we celebrate the fine women and men on the front lines of our health care system, we recognize that registered nurses are vital to quality health care for all Americans. Nurses care for patients at every level—from critical care, chronic disease, to preventative and wellness care. They work in hospitals, doctor's offices, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, schools and provide in-home care throughout the community. Nurses routinely perform some of the most important duties of a patient's treatment.

In this National Nurses Week, I also want to pay special tribute to nurses in my district and throughout South Florida. From our elder population, to working men and women, to our children, nurses help my constituents every day. To honor all that they do, on May 9th, nurses in South Florida will participate in a program entitled, "Nurses Making A Difference Every Day." I can tell you that nurses do make a difference every day and I thank them for their service.

I hope that this program, and the national attention we give to the good work of nurses will encourage more people to consider this noble profession. It is projected that the need for registered nurses will grow dramatically in the coming years, and we must do all we can to support this vital field.

Madam Speaker, nurses exemplify some of the best that this country has to offer. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to highlight their value to our communities and the important role nurses play in providing quality health care to all of our constituents.

HONORING MARCIENE MATTHEMAN OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, the Philadelphia Award is my hometown's most prestigious award for service to the community. Its winners, since 1921, have included scientists, educators, industrialists, religious leaders, orchestra conductors, mayors, authors, philanthropists, and more.

This past Sunday, May 4, 2008, the Philadelphia Award was presented, on its 87th anniversary, to Marciene S. Matteman, the founder and developer of programs to advance literacy, promote mentoring and college scholarships for low income youth, develop after school programs in underserved neighborhoods, and generally improve the lives of children in Philadelphia. Her triumphs include the Mayor's Office for Literacy, Philadelphia